

St. Mary & St. John the Baptist Joint Finance-Council Meeting

26 August 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Attendees Fr. Matt Settle
 Mark Cheslock, Chair, SM
 Tom Michalkiewicz, Treasurer Trustee, SJ
 Richard DeKleyn, Member, SM
 Jane Julius, Member, SJ
 Bob Streck, Member, SM
 Terry Stinski, Member, SJ
 Dan Unruh, Member, SJ
 Bill Walsh, Member, SM

 Steve Siegel, Business Manager, (non-voting)
 Anne Hoernke, Secretary Trustee SM, (non-voting)
 Stan Martinson, in-coming Member, SJ, (non-voting)
 Jennifer Farrell, Member Emerita, SJ (non-voting)
 Barb Stinski, SJ (non-voting)

Excused Larry Konetzke, Chair, SJ
 Chad Romzek, Treasurer Trustee, SM

Approvals

Minutes

St. Mary's minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Bob Streck and seconded by Richard DeKleyn.

St. John the Baptist's minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Jane Julius and seconded by Terry Stinski.

Financials

St. Mary's financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Bob Streck and seconded by Richard DeKleyn.

St. John the Baptist's financial reports were unanimously approved on a motion by Jane Julius and seconded by Dan Unruh.

General Discussion

Rectory occupancy and use

The major topic of discussion related to future use of the two parishes' rectories. St. John the Baptist's is currently rented to Spiritus, which has five women living there. However, diocesan guidelines no longer allow such rental of residential facilities. Spiritus is grandfathered in, but their pending departure in a year or two puts the future use of the space in question. It has been inspected by Miron and found to be in very good condition, suitable for remodeling, perhaps as a parish center, residence for the pastor, or other space. St. John would welcome St. Mary's investment and participation in its redevelopment, if a common need is identified.

St. Mary's rectory is vastly oversized for its current use, which is providing residential space for Fr. Settle and Fr. Jude Egbuna. St. Mary has not systematically considered its renovation or future use since Fr. Lightner and Miron floated a parish-center-with-apartment style renovation several years ago. There may be concerns about the plumbing and electrical systems, and the on-going costs of heating and cooling the structure are recognized. Some options considered over time have included inviting the priests of the five parishes to live in community, providing rooms for male Spiritus missionaries, using the ground floor as parish-office space in case of further school expansion, conversion to a small residence with additional parking, etc.

Relevant data presented included that, per Miron, new construction is roughly four times as expensive as renovation of existing structures, and that the City of Menasha will likely seek to impose their requirement of providing one space of off-street parking for every four people who can be accommodated in the church pews if any new building projects are undertaken.

Parish fundraisers

Because the scrip budget was increased to balance next year's budget, we are currently above last year's sales, but are down a percentage point in revenue, and therefore behind budget. We sold out of Kwik Trip at 10% return and had to replace with some 5% cards; we have also sold a lot of Amazon, which only returns 1½%.

The number of purchasers has not increased hugely, but core purchasers are buying more. (We had 155 families out of ≈1,000 participating in July, a good increase from 120 last year.) Lauren is messaging effectively and in varied fashion, but we can always use more ideas.

Scrip provides us \$50K of income without donations.

The historic objection because of credit-card points is obsolete because credit-card purchases of scrip are available online. We carry more inventory than other parishes—others have a two-week wait for orders.

The bottom line is we're doing better than we have been recently, but are still under the new, higher budgetary target.

In the near future, Steve will ask for approval for next advance bulk purchase of Kwik Trip.

Celebrity Bartending on October 6t

Doing an early “tailgate” as well, with a second round of raffles. (Steve attended a benefit that did this that had broken the record for charitable giving at Tony’s.)

We will not conduct any gambling events, but Tommy Siegel will donate all revenues of those that Tony’s conducts that night.

Annual Corporation Meeting

September 28, after Sunday Masses.

Bulletin

Anything that goes into the bulletin wish list should be run by the leadership.

The bulletin should advertise council meetings, or put in a calendar.

The joint meeting concluded at at 7:41 p.m. St. John the Baptist’s council had some additional matters to discuss; St. Mary’s did not.